

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BILLY HOWARD,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
RAMON MANSILUNGAN, et al.,  
Defendants.

Case No. 1:21-cv-00931-JLT-CDB (PC)

**ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-SCREENING ADR AND STAYING CASE FOR 90 DAYS**

**FORTY-FIVE (45) DAY DEADLINE**

Plaintiff Billy Howard is proceeding pro se and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

On October 10, 2023, Defendants<sup>1</sup> Ramon Mansilungan, Kendra Lawrence and Kenya Gooden filed an amended answer to Plaintiff's complaint. (Doc. 38.)

The Court refers all civil rights cases filed by pro se inmates to Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") to attempt to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively.

The Court stays this action for ninety days to allow the parties to investigate Plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and participate in an early settlement conference. The Court presumes that all post-screening civil rights cases assigned to the undersigned will proceed to a settlement conference. However, if, after investigating Plaintiff's claims and meeting and conferring, either

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<sup>1</sup> Defendant Elena Peters was dismissed from this action on November 7, 2023. (Doc. 40.)

1 party finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources, the party may opt out of  
2 the early settlement conference.

3 Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED:

- 4 1. This action is STAYED for **ninety (90) days** to allow the parties an opportunity to  
5 settle their dispute before the discovery process begins. No pleadings or motions may  
6 be filed in this case during the stay. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery,  
7 but they may engage in informal discovery to prepare for the settlement conference.
- 8 2. **Within 45 days** from the date of this Order, the parties SHALL file the attached  
9 notice, indicating their agreement to proceed to an early settlement conference or their  
10 belief that settlement is not achievable at this time.
- 11 3. **Within 60 days** from the date of this Order, assuming the parties agree to participate  
12 in an early settlement conference, defense counsel SHALL contact the undersigned's  
13 Courtroom Deputy Clerk at shall@caed.uscourts.gov to schedule the settlement  
14 conference.
- 15 4. If the parties reach a settlement during the stay of this action, they SHALL file a  
16 Notice of Settlement as required by Local Rule 160.
- 17 5. The parties are obligated to keep the Court informed of their current addresses during  
18 the stay and the pendency of this action. Changes of address must be reported  
19 promptly in a Notice of Change of Address. *See L.R. 182(f).*

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 Dated: November 8, 2023

  
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
24  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BILLY HOWARD,

Plaintiff,

v.

KERN COUNTY LERDO FACILITY  
MEDICAL CHIEF, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:21-cv-00931-JLT-CDB (PC)

**NOTICE REGARDING EARLY  
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

- 17       1. The party or counsel agrees that an early settlement conference would be productive and  
18       wishes to engage in an early settlement conference.

19       Yes \_\_\_\_\_                  No \_\_\_\_\_

- 21       2. Plaintiff (check one):

23       \_\_\_\_\_ would like to participate in the settlement conference in person.

24       \_\_\_\_\_ would like to participate in the settlement conference by telephone or video  
25       conference.

26       Dated:

28       \_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff or Counsel for Defendants